Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1 – 22 and add claims 23 – 36, as indicated herein. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A slider comprising:

a slider bond pad for electrically connecting the slider to a gimbal, the slider bond pad having at least two layers;

a notch located below the slider bond pad and on an edge of the slider, wherein the edge is adjacent the gimbal; and

wherein the notch and the slider bond pad provide compensation for potential misalignment between the slider and the gimbal.

24. (New) The slider according to claim 23, wherein the notch has a height with respect to the gimbal of about 25 microns.

25. (New) The slider according to claim 23, wherein the slider bond pad has a thickness of about 15 microns.

26. (New) The slider according to claim 23, wherein the slider bond pad has a thickness of about 5 microns.

27. (New) A slider comprising:

a slider body, wherein the slider body comprises a front side;

a slider bond pad extending from the front side for electrically connecting to a flex on suspension bond pad, the slider bond pad having a pad extension adjacent to the front side and a bond pad adjacent the pad extension; and

a notch located along the front side;

wherein the notch and the slider bond pad provide compensation for potential misalignment between the slider and the gimbal.

28. (New) The slider according to claim 27, wherein the pad extension comprises nickel iron.

29. (New) The slider according to claim 28, wherein the bond pad comprises gold.

30. (New) The slider according to claim 29, wherein the slider bond pad has a height with respect to the gimbal of about 25 microns.

31. (New) The slider according to claim 29, wherein the slider bond pad has a height with respect to the gimbal of about 15 microns.

32. (New) An actuator assembly comprising:

a slider, wherein the slider comprises a slider body and a slider bond pad, the slider bond pad includes at least two layers;

a gimbal;

a flex circuit material adhered to the gimbal;

a flex on suspension bond pad attached to the flex circuit material;

wherein a ball bond electrically connects the slider bond pad and the flex on suspension bond pad.

33. (New) The actuator assembly according to claim 32, further comprising a gap between the flex on suspension bond pad and the slider bond pad.

34. (New) The actuator assembly according to claim 33, wherein the gap is between about 30 microns and about 70 microns.

35. (New) The actuator assembly according to claim 32, further comprising:

a notch located below the slider bond pad and on an edge of the slider, wherein the edge is adjacent the gimbal; and

wherein the notch and the slider bond pad provide compensation for potential misalignment between the slider and the gimbal.

36. (New) The actuator assembly according to claim 35, wherein:

the flex on suspension bond pad has a thickness,

the notch has a height with respect to the gimbal, and

the height is larger than the thickness.